

## Making progress on legislative and policy issues

### Agriculture

Recognizing the need for improved nutrition in our nation's schools, Congressman Nunes co-sponsored HR 2832, which will improve student nutrition by expanding the Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program.

The expanded pilot program will provide for the distribution of free fresh and dried fruits and fresh vegetables throughout the school day in California schools.

### Constituent Inquires

In July, Rep. Nunes wrote to 1,793 constituents in response to their inquiries. To date, Rep. Nunes has responded to 7,682 constituents via the U.S. Mail.

### Education

Throughout the U.S. there seems to be a growing number of individuals who are going through life without basic knowledge or understanding of American History. This is sad for all of us who take great pride in our nation and its beliefs, which is why Congressman Nunes co-sponsored H.R. 1078, the American History and Civics Education Act. This legislation would establish pilot program grants to fund programs for both K-12 teachers and high school students to strengthen their knowledge on American history and civics.

### Environment

#### Air Quality

Due to the San Joaquin Valley's continued classification as a severe ozone non-attainment area by the Environmental Protection Agency, Congressman Nunes has cosponsored legislation to provide to a tax credit for qualifying clean technology engines (H.R. 2938).

This legislation is designed to provide incentives for businesses in the San Joaquin Valley to improve air quality by reducing emissions from diesel engines. A business would receive tax credits for up to 25% of the cost of replacing high pollution diesel engines with cleaner technology (capped at \$15,000 per business each year).

The proposal applies to heavy duty on-road diesel engines and off-highway diesel engines. The new equipment would have to be 50% cleaner than the old engine. This would sunset after 2009 to encourage compliance by the Clean Air Act deadline of 2010.

#### Critical Habitat

Recent controversy over the designation of critical habitat has convinced Congressman Nunes to cosponsor the Critical Habitat Reform Act (H.R. 2933). This legislation would moderately reform the process under which critical habitat for endangered species is designated. He believes that the critical habitat designation process has become so onerous due to incessant litigation and unworkable regulations that the original intent of the Endangered Species Act, to preserve and recover threatened animal and plant

species, has become a thing of the past.

This legislation would address six aspects of the critical habitat designation process which, if enacted, would help achieve a balance in designation between the preservation of the species and the rights of the landowners, state, and local governments whose land is designated. The "Critical Habitat Reform Act" would:

- Require the establishment of a recovery plan concurrent with the designation of critical habitat
- Limit the designation of critical habitat to the maximum extent "practicable, economically feasible, and determinable"
- Exclude areas that are currently under a Habitat Conservation Plan or under a state or federal conservation program
- Require the Service to consider local resource data, including maps, when considering areas for possible designation
- Require the economic impact analysis to consider the impact of lost revenues to land owners and to federal, state and local governments, as well as to include costs associated with the preparation of reports, surveys and analyses for landowners seeking to obtain approval from state, federal or local permitting agencies.

### Foreign Affairs

Syria continues to support terrorism, develop weapons of mass destruction and refuses to end its occupation of Lebanon. Recognizing the need to send a clear warning to President Asad, Congressman Nunes co-sponsored the Syria Accountability Act, sponsored by Representative Ileana Ross-Lehtinen (R-FL). House Resolution 1828 provides Congressional authorization for sanctions against Syria.

The bill permits the President of the United States to determine if sanctions are appropriate through a certification process. If Syria were found to have ceased its support for terrorism, its occupation of Lebanon and development of weapons of mass destruction, sanctions would not be imposed.

### Healthcare



As an original co-sponsor of the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act, Congressman Nunes sent a letter to the Medicare Conference Committee, requesting support for the Health Savings and Affordability Act of 2003.

The provisions of this act, contained in H.R. 2596, passed the House as part of Medicare reform discussions. The private health